Practitioner's Docket No. MPI1997-035CP3

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 8, 9, 17, and 47 as follows:

1. cancelled

2. cancelled

3.(amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which is a mammalian polypeptide.

4. The isolated polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is a human polypeptide.

5. (amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid having ATCC Designation No. 209510.

6. (amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

8. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least ~~about~~ 90% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

9. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which has ~~a~~ at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide; wherein the bioactivity is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) binding to a target peptide;

(b) catalyzing hydrolysis of a target peptide; and

(c) interacting with a metal ion selected from Zn^{2+} Co^{2+}, and Mn^{2+}.

10. The isolated polypeptide of claim 9, which binds a target peptide.

11. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds angiotensin I.

12. The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

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13. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds kinetensin.

15. The isolated polypeptide of claim 13, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

16. The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof.

17. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2 and which has at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide; wherein the bioactivity is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) binding to a target peptide;

(b) catalyzing hydrolysis of a target peptide; and

(c) interacting with a metal ion selected from Zn^{2+} Co^{2+}, and Mn^{2+}.

18-43 cancelled

44. cancelled

45. An isolated polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

46. cancelled

47.(currently twice amended) ~~The~~ An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 90 % identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide; wherein the bioactivity is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) binding to a target peptide;

(b) catalyzing hydrolysis of a target peptide; and

(c) interacting with a metal ion selected from Zn^{2+} Co^{2+}, and Mn^{2+}.

48. cancelled

49. The isolated polypeptide of claim 47, which binds a target peptide.

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50. The isolated polypeptide of claim 49, which binds angiotensin I.

51. The isolated polypeptide of claim 50, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

52. The isolated polypeptide of claim 49, which binds kinetensin.

53. The isolated polypeptide of claim 52, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

54. The isolated polypeptide of claim 17, which binds a target peptide.

55. The isolated polypeptide of claim 54, which binds angiotensin I.

56. The isolated polypeptide of claim 55, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

57. The isolated polypeptide of claim 54, which binds kinetensin.

58. The isolated polypeptide of claim 57, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).